

Centraal Museum

The **Centraal Museum** is the main museum in Utrecht, Netherlands, founded in 1838. The museum has a wide-ranging collection, mainly of works produced locally. The collection of the paintings by the Northern Mannerist Joachim Wtewael is by a long way the largest anywhere in the world. Other highlights are many significant paintings by the Utrecht Caravaggisti, such as Gerard van Honthorst and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Both of them travelled to Rome in the early 17th century to study the works of the Italian master Caravaggio. In the previous generation, as well as Wtewael, Abraham Bloemaert and the portraitist Paulus Moreelse were the most significant Utrecht painters, with Jan van Scorel still earlier.

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The main building at centre; the Dick Bruna huis is on the left, with the yellow banner



The good Samaritan, 1537

History

Initially, the collection - exhibited on the top floor of the Utrecht townhall - was limited to art related to the city of Utrecht. In 1921 the collection merged with various private collections in the new 'centralised museum' (hence the name 'Centraal museum', *centraal* being the Dutch word for *central*) located in the former medieval monastery at the Nicolaaskerkhof. Currently, the collection comprises pre-1850 art, modern art, applied art, fashion and the city history of Utrecht.

Since 2006, the museum also runs the Miffy Museum (<http://nijntjemuseum.nl/?lang=en>), a museum across the street dedicated to Dick Bruna and his rabbit character Miffy. It also runs the Rietveld Schröder House, a famous Modernist house built in 1924 by the Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld for Mrs. Truus Schröder-Schräder^[1] and her three children, which is now owned by the museum and open to the public (prebooking usually needed).

Highlights

Amongst the highlights of the museum is the one-thousand-year-old 'Utrecht Ship'. The ship is part of the collection 'Stadsgeschiedenis'. The ship was found in 1930 near the Van Hoornekade in Utrecht and was put in the cellar of the 16th-century part of the museum building.

Notes

1. "Rietveld Schröder huis (rijksmonument #18329)" (<https://monumentenregister.cultureelerfgoed.nl/monuments/18329>). *Monumentenregister* (in Dutch). [Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed](#). Retrieved 9 February 2012.

References

- [Official site of the Centraal Museum Utrecht \(http://centraalmuseum.nl/en/\)](http://centraalmuseum.nl/en/)
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